

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 2420

FOR PRESIDENTIAL PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S TRIP

EMBASSY HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO TRANSMIT FOLLOWING TO PRESIDENTIAL
PARTY:

"THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
LIBERIA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOUR TO INFORM THE
LATTER THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, DR.
WILLIAM R. TOLBERT, JR., HAS TODAY RECIEVED A SPECIAL
REQUEST FROM THE HEAD OF STATE OF THE DEMOCRATIC AND
POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA, PRESIDENT HOUARI BOUMEDIENNE
TO RAISE THE FOLLOWING POINTS CONCERING THE WESTERN SAHARA
WITH PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO
LIBERIA ON MONDAY, APRIL 3, 1978:

1. PRINCIPLES OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE AFRICAN PEOPLES; AND
2. NON-INTERFERENCE BY NON-AFRICAN STATES IN AFRICAN MATTERS.

IN RESPECT OF THE SECOND POINT, PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE,
THROUGH HIS SPECIAL ENVOY, HAS ASKED PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO
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BRING TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S ATTENTION THE MATTER OF FRENCH
MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THE WESTERN SAHARA REGION AGAINST
THE POLISARIO FORCES WHO ARE FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIBERATION AND
THE EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

IN ARTICULATING THE PROBLEM OF THE MASSIVE FRENCH BUILD-
UP PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE, THROUGH HIS SPECIAL ENVOY TO

PRESIDENT TOLBERT, INDICATED THAT FRENCH INTERVENTION HAS SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED IN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS THUS POSING A REAL RISK OF WAR IN THE REGION. THE SPECIAL ENVOY HAS OBSERVED THAT TWICE THE ENTIRE REGION HAS BEEN AT THE BRINK OF WAR DUE TO FRENCH MILITARY BUILD-UP IN THE AREA. THE UNFRIENDLY ACT ON THE PART OF FRANCE, ACCORDING TO THE ENVOY, COULD CAUSE INTERNATIONAL TENSION AND POSE DANGER TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE STRONGLY FEELS THAT THE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE CHARTERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE UNITED NATIONS EPITOMIZE THE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLES OF WESTERN SAHARA.

WHILE EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THIS INFORMATION WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO PRESIDENT CARTER IN A TIMELY MANNER, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND ESTEEM."

2. COMMENT - GOL HAS BEEN NEUTRAL TO MODERATE ON WESTERN SAHARA AND, WHILE TOLBERT ALWAYS WILLING TO HEAR OUT ANYONE, HAS CHOSEN FONMIN NOTE TO RAISE ISSUE WITH USG. WE DOUBT SUBJECT WILL FIGURE IN BI-LATERAL CONVERSATIONS HERE.

CARTER

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NNN

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